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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, FR
SUBJECT: ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR FRANCE
REF: STATE 261750
1. INTRODUCTION

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
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FRANCE IS A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY WITH FULL CONSTITUTIONAL
GUARANTEES AND FREELY-FUNCTIONING POLITICAL PARTIES
AND REGULAR ELECTIONS. VOTER PARTICIPATION
(WITH UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE) IS HIGH. ELECTIONS
AT THE LOCAL AS WELL AS NATIONAL LEVEL ARE
OCCASIONS FOR DEBATE OF IDEOLOGICAL AND TOPICAL
CONCERNS; EVEN LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE TRANSFORMED
BY PUBLIC OPINION INTO REFERENDA ON THE DIRECTION
OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL POLICY. WHILE THE
SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT (IN WHICH THE COMMUNIST PARTY
PARTICIPATES) HAS SUFFERED A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN
LOCAL ELECTORAL AND POLLED POPULARITY SINCE
COMING TO OFFICE IN 1981, UNIVERSAL RESPECT FOR
THE CONSTITUTION AND THE ELECTORAL CALENDAR PRECLUDE

FOR COORDINATION WITH ^{ed} State

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ANY EXTRA-ELECTORAL CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. DURING 1983, NATIONWIDE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WERE HELD; FRAUD WAS UNCOVERED IN APPROXIMATELY TWO DOZEN RACES AND THE RESULTS WERE OVERTURNED AND NEW ELECTIONS HELD.

FRANCE HAS A HIGHLY DEVELOPED INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY COMPRISED A MIXTURE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. THE PUBLIC SECTOR WAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY DURING THE FIRST YEAR AND A HALF OF THE MITTERRAND GOVERNMENT WHEN, IN FULFILLMENT OF SOCIALIST PARTY CAMPAIGN PROMISES, A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES AND MOST OF THE REMAINING PRIVATE BANKS WERE NATIONALIZED.

VAST MAJORITY OF THE ECONOMY IS STILL PRIVATELY CONTROLLED AND NO FIRMS OR BANKS WERE NATIONALIZED IN 1983, IN CONFORMITY WITH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S PLEDGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE UNDERTAKING ANY ADDITIONAL NATIONALIZATIONS.

HUMAN RIGHTS IS PERHAPS THE SINGLE MOST CONSISTENT TENET OF THE MITTERRAND GOVERNMENT. FRENCH LEADERS SPEAK OUT FREQUENTLY ON ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORLD-WIDE AND MAKE FREQUENT REFERENCE TO THE PROTECTION OF THESE RIGHTS WITHIN FRANCE. FULL, PRECEDENT-SETTING LEGAL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND A POPULAR CONSENSUS ON RETENTION OF THESE GUARANTEES ARE HALLMARKS OF MODERN-DAY FRANCE.

IN AUGUST, JUSTICE MINISTER BADINTER PROPOSED AN ADDITIONAL SERIES OF LEGAL REFORMS TO EXPAND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES, PROVIDE FOR PROTECTION OF VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND ALLOW AN INCREASE IN POWER TO JUDGES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON INDIVIDUAL SENTENCING.

THE JULY 1983 MEETING IN GENEVA OF THE U.N. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS EXPRESSED ITS ADMIRATION FOR REFORMS MADE IN THE FRENCH JUDICIAL SYSTEM SINCE THE COMING TO POWER OF THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT, NOTING THAT THE FRENCH SYSTEM COULD "SERVE AS AN INSPIRATION TO EFFORTS AIMED AT PROMOTING THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE."

2. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING
- FREEDOM FROM:

A. UNLAWFUL OR ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONDONE POLITICAL KILLING. ACTS OF TERRORISM WHICH CAUSED LOSS OF LIFE DECREASED IN NUMBER FROM 1982
ALTHOUGH THE SINGLE MOST DEADLY ACT OF TERRORISM ON FRENCH SOIL IN 1983, THE BOMB ATTACK AGAINST TURKISH AIRLINES AT ORLY AIRPORT ON JULY 15 CAUSED SEVEN DEATHS. IN 1983

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THERE WERE, BY FRENCH POLICE COUNT, 63 TERRORIST INCIDENTS WHICH RESULTED IN 10 DEATHS (FIGURES THROUGH SEPTEMBER). IN JANUARY, A BOMB WITH ESPECIALLY DEADLY COMPONENTS WAS DISCOVERED AT ORLY AIRPORT AND DEFUSED PRIOR TO EXPLOSION. MOST ACTS OF TERRORISM WERE CARRIED OUT OR CLAIMED BY NON-FRENCH GROUPS WITH TIES TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND BY ARMENIAN TERRORIST GROUPS. WHILE NO AMERICAN CITIZENS OR USG OFFICIALS WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 05 PARIS 42070 E.O. 12356: N/A

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SUBJECT: ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR FRANCE DIRECTLY ATTACKED BY TERRORISTS IN 1983, CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANMIS IN FRANCE REMAINS HIGH. ONE AMERICAN CITIZEN WAS KILLED DURING THE JULY BOMB ATTACK AT ORLY. AMERICAN CORPORATIONS RECEIVED NUMEROUS BOMB THREATS DURING 1983.

A BOMB AT THE MARSEILLE TRADE FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 30, WHICH KILLED 1 PERSON AND CAUSED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE, WAS PROBABLY DIRECTED AGAINST THE AMERICAN PAVILION. SEVERAL GROUPS CLAIMED THE ATTACK, INCLUDING TO FAR-RIGHT, ANTI-IMMIGRANT GROUPS, LEADING SOME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS TO SPECULATE THAT THESE ATTACKS MAY HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST THE ADJOINING ALGERIAN PAVILIONS.

THERE WERE SEVERAL BOMBINGS OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICES WHICH WERE CLAIMED BY THE "DIRECT ACTION" GROUP.

THESE BOMBINGS WERE

DIRECTED AGAINST GOVERNMENT OFFICES, AND THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY. SEPARATIST GROUPS TOOK CREDIT FOR SEVERAL BOMBINGS IN MARTINIQUE, INCLUDING ONE IN OCTOBER AT THE BUILDING HOUSING THE AMERICAN CONSULATE.

ACTS OF TERRORISM CONNECTED TO CORSICAN SEPARATIST ASPIRATIONS CONTINUED THROUGH 1983. IN AUGUST, A RANKING CIVIL SERVANT WAS MURDERED NEAR BASTIA, UPPER CORSICA. RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS DEATH WAS CLAIMED BY THE FLNC, A CORSICAN SEPARATIST GROUP WHICH HAD TRADITIONALLY LIMITED ITS ATTACKS TO MAINLANDER-OWNED PROPERTY. IN JANUARY, THE GOVERNMENT PROSCRIBED MEMBERSHIP IN THE FLNC AND, IN SEPTEMBER, THE FLNC'S POLITICAL ARM, THE CCN. THEFT OF EXPLOSIVES, AND BOMB ATTACKS ON PROPERTY CONTINUED AT A REGULAR RATE THROUGH 1983. INCREASED LAW ENFORCEMENT MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON CORSICA, WITH MIXED RESULTS. THERE WERE UNCONFIRMED ALLEGATIONS OF GOVERNMENT COMPLICITY IN THE DISAPPEARANCE AND PRESUMED MURDER OF A CORSICAN WITH SEPARATIST CONNECTIONS (ORSINI) IN AUGUST 1982. AN INVESTIGATION OF THAT CRIME WAS UNDERWAY IN NOVEMBER. A REPORTER WHO COVERED A CLANDESTINE

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FLNC PRESS CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER WAS DETAINED BRIEFLY FOR POLICE QUESTIONING.

B. DISAPPEARANCE

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT FRENCH SECURITY FORCES HAVE ENGAGED IN ABDUCTION OR SECRET ARRESTS.

**C. TORTURE, AND CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING
- TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT.**

FREEDOM FROM TORTURE IS GUARANTEED BY LAW AND RESPECTED IN PRACTICE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO CREDIBLE ALLEGATIONS OF THE USE OF TORTURE. DURING DEMONSTRATIONS IN PARIS IN MAY AND JUNE, AGAINST PROPOSED REFORM OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCATTERED STREET RIOTING TOOK PLACE. THERE WERE ISOLATED INSTANCES OF POLICE BEATINGS OF RIOTERS AND AT LEAST ONE INSTANCE OF A REPORTER BEING ATTACKED BY POLICE. HOWEVER, IN THE FACE OF PROVOCATION, POLICE REACTION WAS GENERALLY RESTRAINED.

D. ARBITRARY ARREST, DETENTION, OR EXILE.

FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT IS GUARANTEED BY FRENCH LAW. LEGALLY PROTECTED CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES FLOURISHES. THERE IS NO DIRECT EQUIVALENT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN THE FRENCH LEGAL SYSTEM, BUT A SUSPECT CAN ONLY BE HELD 1 OR 2 DAYS--5 DAYS FOR DRUG CASES--BEFORE BEING TRANSFERRED TO A MAGISTRATE FOR INVESTIGATION. ELEMENTS OF FRANCE'S LARGE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY HAVE PROTESTED THE GOVERNMENT'S DETENTION OF APPROXIMATELY FIFTY PERSONS OF ARMENIAN-DESCENT, MOST OF WHOM ARE FRENCH CITIZENS, IN CONNECTION WITH THE ORLY AIRPORT BOMBING. AN ARMENIAN HAS CONFESSED TO TRANSPORTING THE BOMB TO THE AIRPORT AND OTHER ARMENIANS HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF THE BOMB. AFTER THE ORLY BOMBING, APPROXIMATELY TWO DOZEN ARMENIANS WERE PLACED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 03 OF 05 PARIS 42070
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"PROVINCIAL DETENTION" (SENT TO OUTLYING PROVINCES WITH POLICE ESCORT) AND HAVE SINCE BEEN PLACED UNDER A FORM OF HOUSE ARREST IN WHICH THEY ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT TO LOCAL POLICE STATIONS ON A REGULAR BASIS. ANOTHER FIVE ARMENIANS REMAIN IN PRISON UNDER COURT ORDER AS A RESULT OF THE ORLY BOMBING. THREE OTHER ARMENIANS INVOLVED IN THE 1981 TAKEOVER OF THE TURKISH CONSULATE IN PARIS REMAIN IN JAIL AWAITING TRIAL.

UNDER FRENCH PRACTICE, THE JUDICIARY PLAYS AN

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IMPORTANT, DETERMINING ROLE IN THE DETENTION PROCESS. GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO HOLD A PERSON BEYOND THE PRESCRIBED PERIODS IS SEVERELY RESTRICTED AND MUST BE ORDERED BY THE COMPETENT COURT.

FRANCE, AS A "LAND OF EXILE" HAS FOR MANY DECADES PROVIDED A HOME FOR THOUSANDS OF PERSONS FLEEING POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION. THERE ARE NO SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS OF PERSONS BEING EXILED FROM MODERN-DAY FRANCE.

E. DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL.

THE RIGHT OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL IS GUARANTEED BY LAW AND RESPECTED IN PRACTICE. SUSPECTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO LEGAL COUNSEL AS SOON AS A CASE IS TRANSFERRED FROM THE POLICE TO A MAGISTRATE. FOR MISDEMEANORS, PRE-TRIAL CONFINEMENT IN THE MAGISTRATE IS LIMITED NORMALLY TO FOUR MONTHS, WITH POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS TO A TOTAL OF EIGHT MONTHS IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. THERE IS NO LIMITATION OF PRE-TRIAL CONFINEMENT FOR FELONIES. FRENCH LAW PROVIDES FOR THE RIGHT OF APPEAL. ALL TRIALS IN FRANCE ARE OPEN AND PUBLIC. DISCUSSION IS UNDERWAY ON THE POSSIBILITY OF PUBLIC BROADCAST OF THE UPCOMING TRIAL OF NAZI **KLAUS BARBIE** FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY. THE PRESS HAS FREE ACCESS TO RECORDS OF COURT PROCEEDINGS, ALTHOUGH DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO CASES IN THE TRIAL OR INVESTIGATORY STAGE ARE NORMALLY NOT IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. THE JUDICIARY IS FREE FROM GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE, ALTHOUGH THE COURTS ARE NOT IMMUNE FROM SUBTLE GOVERNMENT SIGNALS OR PUBLIC PRESSURE ON CERTAIN CASES.

THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT HOLDS ANY PERSON FOR POLITICAL REASONS. OTHER THAN ALLEGATIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERSECUTION BY THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY, NO MINORITY OR OPPOSITION FORMATION HAS CHARGED THAT POLITICAL MOTIVES ARE INVOLVED IN THE DETENTION OF PERSONS. TO THE CONTRARY, THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS OF GOVERNMENT LAXITY IN LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE AFTERMATH OF SEVERAL VIOLENT CRIMES, ESPECIALLY THOSE CARRIED OUT BY COMMON CRIMINALS RELEASED IN THE WIDESPREAD GOVERNMENT AMNESTY OF 1981.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONTINUES TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE STATUS OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS. PENDING COMPLETION OF LEGISLATIVE REFORM ON THIS SUBJECT, LEGAL PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WHOSE REQUESTS FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR STATUS HAD BEEN REJECTED. HOWEVER, THERE ARE STILL SOME INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD NOT

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PRESENTED SUCH A REQUEST AND REFUSED MILITARY SERVICE WHO ARE SERVING PRISON TERMS IMPOSED BY THE PERMANENT TRIBUNALS OF THE ARMED FORCES PRIOR TO 1983.

F. ARBITRARY INTERFERENCE WITH PRIVACY, FAMILY,
- HOME OR CORRESPONDENCE.

FREEDOM FROM INVASION OF PRIVACY IS GUARANTEED BY LAW AND RESPECTED IN PRACTICE. SEARCH WARRANTS ARE REQUIRED FOR AN OFFICIAL TO ENTER A PRIVATE RESIDENCE. SEARCHES MUST TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 6 P.M., EXCEPT IN SPECIAL CASES SUCH AS DRUG OFFENSES, WHEN THEY CAN BE UNDERTAKEN AT ANY TIME.

3. RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

A. FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS.

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THESE FREEDOMS ARE GUARANTEED BY LAW AND RESPECTED

FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND CARRY VIEWS RANGING ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. MAJOR RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS ARE GOVERNMENT-OWNED. THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT WITH RADIO AND TV. INSTEAD, THESE MEDIA ARE UNDER JURISDICTION OF A "HIGH AUTHORITY" WHOSE APPOINTMENT IS SHARED AMONG THE PRESIDENT, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE SENATE. (OPPOSITION PARTIES CURRENTLY CONTROL THE LATTER INSTITUTION). ALLEGATIONS OF GOVERNMENT PRESSURE ON TELEVISION AND RADIO CONTINUE TO BE HEARD, AND DENIED. TO THE EXTENT THAT IT EXISTS, GOVERNMENT PRESSURE ON THE AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA IS NOT A SIGNIFICANT LIMITATION ON POLITICAL FREEDOMS. IN 1983, A SYSTEM OF PRIVATE "FREE" RADIO STATIONS WAS PUT INTO PLACE. MANY OF THESE STATIONS ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE CURRENT POLITICAL OPPOSITION.

B. FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION.

FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION IS CONSTITUTIONALLY GUARANTEED AND RESPECTED IN PRACTICE. LABOR UNIONS HAVE THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE FREE FROM GOVERNMENT CONTROL. ALTHOUGH LESS THAN ONE-QUARTER OF LABOR IS UNIONIZED, TRADE UNIONS EXERCISE A SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY AND ARE PRESENT AND ACTIVE IN NUMEROUS TRI-PARTITE

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BODIES (GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS AND LABOR), WHICH DEAL WITH SOCIAL AFFAIRS, INCLUDING LABOR COURTS AND THE PRESTIGIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, A CONSTITUTIONALLY-MANDATED CONSULTATIVE BODY. "SOCIAL SECURITY" ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER TO ELECT NEW BOARDS FOR OLD AGE, HEALTH AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS WERE OPEN TO THE OVER 30 MILLION FRENCH WORKERS, STUDENTS OR UNEMPLOYED.

C. FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IS BY FAR THE LARGEST RELIGIOUS GROUP IN FRANCE. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE IS GUARANTEED BY THE FRENCH 1905 CONCORDAT WITH THE VATICAN (EXCEPT IN ALSACE AND LORRAINE WHERE, FOR HISTORIC REASONS, THE CONCORDAT DOES NOT APPLY AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ENJOYS A FAVORED STATUS). ALL OTHER RELIGIOUS GROUPS FUNCTION FREELY WITHOUT PERSECUTION OR RESTRICTIONS. GOVERNMENT SERVICE IS OPEN TO MEMBERS OF ALL RELIGIONS. THERE ARE PAROCHIAL AS WELL AS PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ENTERED INTO DISCUSSION ON A LONG-RANGE AND CONTROVERSIAL PROGRAM TO REDUCE SUBSIDIES TO PRIVATE (97 PCT CATHOLIC) SCHOOLS AND RE-CREATE A SINGLE, NATIONAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.

D. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN - TRAVEL, EMIGRATION AND REPATRIATION.

THERE IS FREEDOM OF INTERNAL MOVEMENT, FOREIGN TRAVEL, EMIGRATION AND REPATRIATION. CURRENCY CONTROLS INSTITUTED IN APRIL, AND WHICH EXPIRED IN DECEMBER, SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE AMOUNT OF MONEY AVAILABLE TO FRENCH CITIZENS TRAVELLING TO MOST OVERSEAS DESTINATIONS FOR MOST PURPOSES. ARRIVING REFUGEES, INTENDING EMIGRANTS, AND INTENDING REPATRIATES CAN UNDERTAKE FOREIGN TRAVEL AND RETURN TO FRANCE. FRANCE HAS AN EXTENSIVE RECORD OF REFUGEE AID AND CONSIDERABLE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.

4. THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS TO CHANGE THEIR GOVERNMENT

THE FRENCH CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES THE EQUALITY OF ALL CITIZENS BEFORE THE LAW, WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO ORIGIN, RACE, OR RELIGION. ALL FRENCH CITIZENS OF BOTH SEXES WHO HAVE REACHED THEIR MAJORITY MAY VOTE. THESE PROVISIONS ARE FULLY RESPECTED IN PRACTICE. A WIDE CHOICE OF POLITICAL PARTIES EXISTS; THESE PARTIES COMPETE FREELY IN ELECTIONS. IN ADDITION TO NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, THERE ARE REGULARLY

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SCHEDULED ELECTIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. THE
GOVERNMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF TRANSFERRING
SIGNIFICANT POWERS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO THE
LOCALLY-ELECTED ASSEMBLIES. HOWEVER, IMPLEMENTATION
OF THIS DECENTRALIZATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN SLOWED.
WOMEN, REPRESENTING APPROXIMATELY 52 PERCENT OF
THE POPULATION, HAVE EQUAL STATUS UNDER THE LAW,
BUT REMAIN ENGAGED IN THE CONTINUING EFFORT TO
MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THEIR RIGHTS. A
CABINET-LEVEL MINISTRY IS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY
FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT PROMOTES
EFFORTS TO CLOSE LOOPHOLES IN FRENCH LEGISLATION
ON SEX DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE, TO
DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON CONTRACEPTION, AND TO
PUT INTO FORCE PARTIAL STATE FINANCING OF ABORTIONS.
A WIDE RANGE OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS -- LABOR,
VETERANS, CONSUMER ADVOCATES, ECOLOGISTS, AND
OTHER GROUPS -- ORGANIZE FREELY, RUN CANDIDATES
FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE AND OTHERWISE INFLUENCE THE
FRENCH BODY POLITIC. LEGISLATION OVER THE PAST
YEAR HAS BEEN ENACTED TO BROADEN CIVIL LIBERTIES.
WHILE ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF DISCRIMINATION OCCUR,
PARTICULARLY AGAINST THE LARGE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY,
GOVERNMENT POLICY DOES NOT CONDONE RACIAL,
RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION.

5. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND
- NON-GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS
- OF HUMAN RIGHTS

FRANCE HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN A LEADER IN THE
HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS
OPERATE FREELY IN FRANCE. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
MAINTAINS A LARGE OFFICE IN PARIS. OTHER HUMAN
RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN FRANCE ARE THE INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

6. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SITUATION

FRANCE HAS AN ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL MIXED ECONOMY
WHICH IS ACCOMPANIED BY A SYSTEM OF SOCIAL
ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY MEMBERS OF THE POPULATION
REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, SEX, ETHNIC
BACKGROUND, OR POLITICAL OPINION. FRANCE'S
POPULATION AS OF 1981 WAS 53,849,000. POPULATION

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GROWTH RATE IS 0.4 PERCENT. GNP PER CAPITA IS \$11,731 (1980). LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH WAS 74 YEARS (AS OF 1980) AND THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE IS 9.8/1000 AS OF 1981. ADULT LITERACY RATE IS 99 PERCENT (1975), THE PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT RATIO IS 112 PERCENT (I.E., INCLUDING ADULTS ENROLLED), AND THE RATIO OF CALORIE SUPPLY AVAILABLE FOR CONSUMPTION RELATIVE TO NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IS 136 PERCENT (1977).

(COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD OF HAVING RECEIVED WORLD BANK DATA FOR THIS SECTION. WE HAVE THEREFORE USED STATISTICS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT).

GALBRAITH

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